



Summer Meals Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

WHILE MOST ARE SETTLING IN FOR WINTER, WE KNOW YOU'RE ALL HARD AT WORK GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!

What's new?

2016 Handbooks - FNS has published updated policy guides for the Summer Meal Programs available now at www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks.

- The 2016 Administrative Guide for Sponsors
- The 2016 Nutrition Guide for Sponsors
- The 2016 Sponsor Monitor's Guide

☀ Full color, designed versions of the guides will be available soon!

Capacity Builder—The FNS Capacity Builder has been updated. Comments welcome about visibility range (how far you have to zoom in to display the layer) and symbology.

⇒ The USDA Rural Development layer has been updated with the November 2015 dataset
<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/usda-rural-development-multi-family-housing>

⇒ HRSA Health Centers have been added
<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/data/datadownload/hccDownload.aspx>

Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

February 4th, 1:00pm EST

Food, Research, & Action Center (FRAC):
Partnerships to Expand your Summer Outreach Efforts

<http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/>

February 23rd, 2:00 pm EST

USDA— FNS : *The Public Health Connection: Exploring New Partnerships in SFSP*

<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/lwmyu7qzc56x&eom>

February 25th, 2:00pm EST

USDA— FNS: *Sponsor Administration Guide Changes and Team Nutrition Materials*

<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/uinuymth1tt&eom>

Resources for State agencies

Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs - See USDA's guide highlighting the many ways sponsors can find and buy local foods <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/procuring-local-foods> and check out the farm to summer website for more tips <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-summer>.

FRAC Summer Meals Vendor Guide - Helps sponsors ensure meal quality through a variety of mechanisms including, strengthening contract language, improving vendor communication, increasing competition. http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/summer_meals_vendor_guide.pdf

Know Your Farmer Know Your Food Compass Map
The Compass, available at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamedia?navid=kyf-compass-map>, maps local food projects funded with federal dollars to help you identify local food projects and potential sites, sponsors, vendors, or other partnerships.

Project funders include Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Treasury, and USDA's Rural Development.



Local Foods and Related Activities

How State agencies can help

State agencies can provide support to sponsors and encourage the use of local foods to improve the quality and appeal of summer meals.

- ⇒ Incorporate local procurement tips in sponsor trainings.
- ⇒ Encourage sponsors to find out what's seasonal and available
- ⇒ Highlight the many sources for local foods: direct from the farm, through a distributor, through a Food Service Management Company (FSMC), from a food hub, or school or community garden
- ⇒ Seek out USDA's Local Procurement Guide for more detailed guidance
- ⇒ Spread the word about high quality farm-based activities that help attract and engage children in summer programming. Brainstorm with sponsors about:
- ⇒ Growing or visiting edible gardens; engaging community volunteers to run gardening lessons or activities;
- ⇒ Organizing a farm field trip or host a producer visit;
- ⇒ Conducting taste tests or cooking demonstrations with local foods;
- ⇒ Aligning summer meal sites with local food access points like farmers markets or school or community gardens.



Download and print the farm to summer fact sheet here: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/FactSheet_Farm_to_Summer.pdf

FNS staff is here to help!



FNS has farm to summer points of contact in all seven FNS Regional Offices ready for your call! Staff can provide you with guidance and resources to share through sponsor trainings and regular sponsor communication, along with best practices for bringing the farm to your summer meal sites. Feel free to reach out for assistance, or to share stories from the field!

For more information, check out:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/usda-farm-school-staff>